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Another Herd star headed overseas? Yuri to try Russia



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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009

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Lisa Raitt to keep post after error

Pylons to blame for recent crashes?

RCMP Apparently pylons placed along Highway 102 may be causing some drivers to scratch their heads in confusion and then crash their cars.

Halifax RCMP sent out a warning yesterday asking commuters to use caution when entering construction zones, after responding to four separate collisions on the inbound lane between Exits 4B and 4A over the past few days.

Police spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said nobody was hurt in the crashes but added some cars sustained damage. He said collisions were caused by "driver unawareness" and reminded drivers that fines double in construction zones.

METRO HALIFAX



Sun **Is shining, get out and enjoy it**

Brenna Lord spins a hula hoop as she and her friends enjoy the sunshine on the Halifax Commons yesterday. Today's forecast calls for a mix of sun and cloud with a high of 18 C.

Feds look at harbour sewage flow for violations

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

COUNCIL Environment Canada is investigating the flow of raw sewage into the Halifax Harbour.

Several HRM councillors confirmed to Metro Halifax yesterday the federal government agency has been looking into the failed Harbour Solutions Project since mid-April.

Council got wind of the news Tuesday when a three-hour in-camera session was held with city staff and officials with HRM's water commission.

Wastewater has been flowing into the harbour since January when a flood at the Halifax facility caused a power outage and put the \$54-million facility out of commission until at least next spring.

More bad news came last week when it was learned the water commission is, or soon will be, removing screens to keep solid waste, also known as floatables, from flowing into the harbour.

As part of the investigation, one councillor said they must perform "due diligence" to show Environment Canada they're trying limit the amount of sewage going into the harbour until the plant gets back up and running. That includes, according to another councillor, finding money through the three levels of government for a temporary fix through proposals brought forward Tuesday by city staff.

Sunny Side

Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find the good news around Halifax and Canada. This is also a Call to Action for you to send us your suggestions at halifaxletters@metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax.

On metronews.ca
• Calling all Haligonians — share your SunnySide thoughts on what makes Halifax tick: People, places, events and architecture on Twitter using #sunnyside
• See what other Metro readers are doing and saying about SunnySide Today
• Learning lessons from litter, pg 2



Power protection

NSP looks to add surcharge to prevent building new plant

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Nova Scotia Power is proposing a \$1 per month surcharge on customers to pay for conservation programs.

The \$23 million raised annually would be invested into lowering electricity use, but would also go partly towards protecting the power company's bottom line.

NSP vice-president Alan Richardson presented the programs as a win-win yesterday before bringing his case to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

He said the conservation programs will mean less greenhouse gases spewed into the environment and lower costs to consumers in the long run.

"The savings that these programs generate more than offset the costs, so customers end up way ahead," Richardson told reporters before the UARB hearing.

It will also help NSP avoid having to build a new power plant. The utility is getting close to its maximum energy capacity and projects it can save \$1 billion over 25 years if it can lower energy demand instead of building an ex-

pensive new plant.

But with lower energy use comes lower revenue, and part of the application presented to the UARB involves protecting the company's profit margins.

Richardson said lower usage will reduce some costs. But many expenses, such as maintaining plants and power polls, stay the same regardless of how much power is used. The company therefore wants to use a "cost reallocation mechanism" to keep income steady.

"It will include an adjustment to continue to collect the current fixed costs, which are not affected by

reduced sales," he said.

But Richardson said the surcharge would not lead to extra money in NSP's pockets. He said the company's profits would stay even, while consumers save in the end and 60,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions would be cut.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil, who has been highly critical of NSP during the election campaign, said he supports the program but someone other than the utility should be running it.

"I don't believe this in any way should be subsidizing Nova Scotia Power's bottom line," McNeil said.

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SHOW TIMES

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Many Nova Scotians can find out how clean their air is by checking out the Air Quality and Health Index at airhealth.ca. Residents can access information about air pollution levels on an hourly basis. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local

Advance polls open soon

Advance polls for the June 9 election take place tomorrow and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters can find the address of their advance poll locations on the yellow voter information card mailed to them by Elections Nova Scotia. If an eligible voter hasn't received a voter information card, or has one with incorrect information, they should contact their local Elections Nova Scotia office. **METRO HALIFAX**

Learning lessons from litter

Metro intern dons cape to defend city streets from trash

Geoff Davies
for Metro Halifax

You can learn a lot about a city from what you pick up from its sidewalks.

Yesterday, I learned about cigarette butts.

The Downtown Halifax Business Commission was putting on its annual Clean Sweep event, so I donned my green cape and makeshift mask and spent the morning picking up trash with some of my Metro Halifax colleagues.

(I don't often tie the panty-hose around my head before 6 p.m. on a weekday, but there were prizes for costumes).

There were 20 teams from various companies and foundations. Some of the more interesting trashy treasures included a shopping cart, a few uprooted street signs and a decades-old German magazine. Underwear was also surprisingly popular.

Needless to say, I was pretty disappointed that I only got cigarette butts. But even butts tell a story.

There were butts of all shapes and sizes, ages, textures and tastes. There were cigarillos and cigars. On the sidewalks in front of the banks along George Street, we found the remnants of a few joints and an empty bottle of Southern Comfort. A sign



Metro intern Geoff Davies helps pick up garbage yesterday on Hollis Street during the Downtown Halifax Business Commission's 15th annual Clean Sweep event.

of the tough economic times, I guess.

But butts haven't changed with the times, at least according to Paul MacKinnon. He has been head of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission for about half of its 15 cleanup events.

"The sidewalk is about the only place that you can smoke, so we've actually



seen (the number of) cigarette butts do nothing but rise over the years," he said.

"I think most people that smoke and just toss their cigarettes on the ground don't think that they're littering."

According to MacKin-

non, cleaning up downtown is about making a good impression. If Halifax doesn't make a good impression to visitors, then it won't bring in business from afar.

And if Halifax can't bring in that business, then I guess we may be picking up joints and cheap booze outside the banks for years to come.

Husband pleads not guilty in death of Sydney River woman

COURT A Kentucky doctor accused of killing his wife with a pontoon boat pleaded not guilty in a Boyle District Court in the town of Danville, Ky., Tuesday morning.

Isabel MacVicar Hall, 49, formerly of Sydney River, was struck by the boat's propeller during a Friday afternoon boating trip on Herrington Lake, Boyle County, with her husband, 46-year-old Dr. Steven Hall.

The coroner's report said she died from "massive head trauma."

Hall told police he accidentally ran over his wife of 21 years and that he had

just wanted to scare her.

Det. Bill Collins of the Kentucky State Police wrote in his police report that Hall "admitted that he and his wife were in a physical altercation and he threw her off of the boat into the lake."

There were five witnesses that stated "this was an intentional act," Collins wrote.

Hall remains in jail with no bond.

MacVicar Hall was the eldest daughter of Duncan and Christine MacVicar of Sydney River. Her siblings include Beth-Anne, Sharon and Stanley MacVicar.

"I'd really like to talk to you right now but we're just not having any comments at this time," Beth-Anne told the Cape Breton Post Tuesday.

Beth-Anne mentioned that "Cape Breton was the home of her heart" before hanging up.

MacVicar Hall, a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University, vacationed with her family and extended family in Cape Dauphin, Victoria County, each summer.

The Halls moved to central Kentucky from Canada 12 years ago.

CAPE BRETON POST

News in brief

CORRECTION Private security for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver will be provided by Contemporary Security Canada. Incorrect information appeared in Wednesday's edition. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video General Motors' road to recovery begins with rebranding strategy at metronews.ca/canada
Blogs Read Flare editor Lisa Tant's Flare Fashion blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 5, 6, 14, 30, 38 and 39. Bonus 34. These results are not official.

Summer parking changes

Starting today and continuing through the summer parking on South Street adjacent to Fort Massey Cemetery will have a one-hour time limit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Halifax Water Commission says the temporary change will accommodate construction work in the area. **METRO HALIFAX**

Jazzing up your life

23rd annual Jazz Fest expecting more than 65,000 fans

COLIN CHISHOLM
for Metro Halifax

The 23rd Atlantic Jazz Festival is coming to Halifax next month and organizers say it's going to feature high-energy music that should keep your pulse up.

With more than 500 musicians and 90 performances, it remains Halifax's largest music festival. It will cost about \$900,000 to hire musicians and buy local services, executive director Sarah Watling said yesterday at 1313 Hollis St., one of several venues for this year's Jazz Fest.

Organizers said they expect more than 65,000 people to catch the shows, which run from July 10-18. President of Jazz East Chris Elson said that despite many events coming to Halifax, he expects it to be a busy year. Jazz East is a partner with the festival and provides support and oversight for the event.

"We're thinking of it as a friendly competition," he said. "I don't think it'll be a negative impact, and what we're hoping is that with several thousand, maybe several tens of thousands of people here from out of



Drummer Doug Cameron and bassist Adam Fine (two-thirds of the band TFC), along with guitarist Jeff Torbert (not pictured), play at the launch party for the 23rd Atlantic Jazz Festival yesterday.

Notable performers

Some of this year's notable Jazz Fest performers include Kenny Garrett, The Bad Plus, Oliver Jones and Joe Louis

Walker. Ticket prices for individual shows range from \$10 to \$45. For more information visit atlanticjazzfestival.ca.

town, they might consider getting a two-day pass for the festival."

Elson said that if people are here to listen to music, then Paul McCartney — who plays the Halifax Commons on July 11 — does not

have to be their only option.

This year's Jazz Fest has a new artistic director, Lulu Healy, and it should give the festival a new feel, Elson said. "I think this year's program has a really distinctive character; it's very

exciting."

The tagline for this year's festival is Check Your Pulse and Healy said that phrase truly captures the theme of the upcoming performances.

"It's a challenge to check your pulse; to see if you're living to your full potential," she said. "A challenge to get out of your comfort zone and take a risk by listening to something new and your spirit will be enriched in return."



Glance leads to stabbing: Police

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

CRIME It seems looking at someone the wrong way resulted in a 20-year-old man being stabbed Tuesday night in Bedford.

Halifax Regional Police say at about 9:30 p.m. a suspect was sitting in his vehicle near the Tim Hortons at the Bedford Village Centre complex, when another vehicle with a group of people in it drove by. Police then say a man in the front passenger seat of that vehicle started a staring contest with the victim, then got out and stabbed him once.

The assailant then drove away with his friends, police said. The victim went

into the Tim Hortons where police were called. "That's the impression,"

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said of this being a case of somebody looking at someone the wrong way. "There's nothing to indi-

cate these two knew each other — that there's any connection between them whatsoever," he said.

The victim was taken to the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sci-

ences Centre in Halifax with a serious stab wound. He is expected to recover.

Police describe the suspect as a white man between the ages of 18 and 22. The vehicle the suspect was in is described as an older model blue Volvo sedan.

Const. Brian Palmeter

Cops searching for robbery suspect

CRIME Halifax Regional Police are looking for a man who they say robbed someone while putting a knife to his back Tuesday afternoon.

Police say at about 5:45 p.m. on Carmichael Street in Halifax the suspect approached the victim from behind, and after putting the knife to his back, demanded cash. Police say the suspect fled on foot and the victim wasn't injured.

METRO HALIFAX

Kelly wants national crime plan

MEETING Peter Kelly will be talking tough on crime at today's Big City Mayors' Caucus in Whistler, B.C.

The Halifax Regional Municipality mayor will be introducing a resolution at the one-day meeting for a national strategy to deal with guns, gangs and violence.

Halifax has been hit with several high-profile crimes in recent weeks. This includes three murders since May 1, numer-

ous shootings and a handful of serious assaults.

"The issues we face in HRM with gangs and gun-related crime are not unique to our municipality and we need a national strategy," Kelly said yesterday in a news release. "It's time for cities to tell Ottawa that we need decisive action to limit access to handguns, including stricter border controls, and harsher penalties for anyone who uses a gun to

commit a violent crime."

The Big City Mayors include leaders from the country's largest municipalities, who meet prior to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference, which is running Friday through Monday, also in Whistler.

Other topics on today's agenda include climate change, public transit, affordable housing and homelessness.

METRO HALIFAX

Robbery charges laid on trio of teenagers

ARREST Three teenage boys who turned themselves into Halifax Regional Police earlier this week were in youth court yesterday facing robbery charges.

Halifax Regional Police say the three boys, two who are 16 years old and one who is 15 years old, are all facing charges after a robbery on June 1.

Police said an 18-year-old man had been punched in the face and

had the sneakers he was wearing stolen while walking on the 400 block of Herring Cove Road.

Two of the three boys, one 16-year-old and the 15-year-old, are also charged in an incident against the same victim May 14.

Police say in that case the 18-year-old man was threatened and relieved of his sneakers and a sweater.

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4 local

Hundreds of Amnesty International members from across Canada are coming to Halifax this weekend for the organization's annual general meeting. It runs from June 5 through 7 at Dal. **METRO HALIFAX**

Combating violence against aboriginals

JON TATTRE
for Metro Halifax



Violence against aboriginal women is a global issue that hits hardest at a local level, says Monica Aleman, president of the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

The Nicaraguan, who is speaking in Halifax today, works with the UN and Amnesty International to combat it.

"The key issue is the environment that impacts on the life of indigenous women. For example, the forced removal of indigenous people from their ancestral territory and the spiritual violence that is experienced as a result of that," she said in a recent interview from New York.

"There is no local problem that does not have an impact at the global level, especially when it comes to the situation faced by women," she said.

"We have two basic principles: The first is that it is

Key note

- Monica Aleman and Jennifer Lord will be speaking at the north-end Halifax library Thursday, June 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

universal and the second is that it is individual.

"Indigenous women are facing violence not only from state policies that have institutionalized racism and discrimination, but also inside their communities and their homes."

Aleman argues for better services to help aboriginal people in their communities, rather than, for example, abused women having to move to the city to find a shelter.

Jennifer Lord, of the Native Women Association of Canada, said the "Canadian crisis" of aboriginal women suffering higher levels of violence should be an issue for all of us.

"We're not talking about



Monica Aleman

just violence within communities, we're talking about the devaluing of aboriginal women in our society at large," she said.

Lord pointed to cases like Tanya Jean Brooks, a Mi'kmaq woman found murdered at Halifax's St. Patrick's-Alexandra School in May, as illustrating how the societal devaluing of aboriginal women combines with individual violence against a women.

"It's circumstances in your life that you experience, and when you don't have the appropriate services and supports in your life ... it leads into a further downward spiral."

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Teen says get out and vote

ELECTION Abby MacIsaac has a message she hopes people take to heart before declining their democratic right Tuesday in the provincial election.

"I understand it's probably confusing, intimidating and a lot of people don't really care about it, but I still think they should take a little bit of time to go out and vote," she said.

Tuesday will mark the 18-year-old Salmon River native's first opportunity to cast a ballot in an election. Up until about a month ago she was not interested in elections, but after the writ was dropped, the Grade 12 student decided to get informed.

She went to last week's candidates' debate and Tuesday attended a forum at Cobequid Educational Centre where three Truro-Bible Hill candidates (Progressive Conservative Hughie MacIsaac, NDP Lenore Zann and Liberal Bob Hagell) spoke to about 50 students.

MacIsaac suggested people get informed before making their decision.

"Don't just vote, research it; get an actual passion for what you're voting for," she said.

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Smokers get their butts in gear

Smokers in HRM are getting their butts in gear with The Lung Association of Nova Scotia's newest program, Learn to Run for Smokers. Starting Tuesday, June 9th, this nine week program introduces the love for running under the supervision of a qualified coach, with a level of activity customized to the participant. "Our goal is to provide a supportive environment for smokers looking for a healthier way of life," explains Coach Louis Brill, CEO and President of the Lung Association. "Running is a life-changing activity, and I believe

that this experience will encourage smokers to love their lungs."

Learn to Run for Smokers is designed for any level of fitness and is supervised by Louis Brill, one of Nova Scotia's most experienced running coaches. Sessions will run twice per week and include a combination of walking, running and stretching regimes that ensure safe, effective techniques for a lifetime of running enjoyment. Additional experts are brought in for educational presentations on diet, sports psychology, addiction counseling and equipment selection. "The most important thing is that our smokers have fun," says Brill. "We are creating a positive

environment where participants will receive the support they need with the training goal of running the Credit Union Atlantic Lung Run in August."

Perfect for new runners, The Credit Union Atlantic Lung Run is Halifax's flattest, fastest 5K, taking place on August 9th on the Halifax waterfront. Over 400 runners and Nordic Walkers will enjoy a beautiful Sunday morning on the boardwalk, while raising funds for lung diseases like C.O.P.D. and asthma. Says Brill, "C.O.P.D. is the lung disease most likely to afflict smokers. If we can encourage smokers to love their lungs today, we can help them prevent a truly unpleasant future."

Google engineer creates map for fallen soldiers

A Google Earth engineer has included Canadians in his "map of the fallen," which allows browsers to connect a soldier's hometown to where they died. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

5

Canada



Health insurers invest in tobacco: Report

Canadian and U.S. health insurance companies — including Toronto's Sun Life Financial Inc. — have more than \$3 billion invested in the tobacco industry, a letter published today in the New England Journal of Medicine charges. By refusing to quit their addiction to those lethal and seemingly self-injurious cigarette profits, the insurers lose any moral right to help set health policy in either country, the letter's Harvard University authors argue. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

MP stays on despite file slip

PM refuses offer to quit after secret documents left at TV studio

Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused the resignation of Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt yesterday after a binder containing confidential nuclear documents was left in a television studio.

The documents were left in a CTV studio after a visit by Raitt and at least one other official. CTV said it had kept the documents for six days to see if anybody would try to retrieve them, and no one did.

"This is a serious matter. Clear procedures were not followed in this case. Corrective action has been taken," Raitt told Parliament in a question period dominated by the issue.

"I offered to resign if the prime minister felt it necessary. He did not accept it. The person responsible for handling the documents offered their resignation, and I did accept it."

Government officials

would not name the political attaché who had accompanied Raitt to the television studio.

The opposition said the incident showed incompetence on the part of the minority Conservative government, already under fire for its handling of the economic crisis.

"The issue here is an issue of competence, and not just competence in relation to this minister but competence in relation to the whole government," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.

A Liberal colleague was heard muttering, during the exchange between Ignatieff and Raitt, that the government was making a scapegoat of the political aide.

Ignatieff said on Tuesday he would likely decide next week whether to try to bring down the Tory government.

REUTERS



Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt prepares to speak in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday. Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused the resignation of Raitt yesterday after a binder containing confidential nuclear documents was left in a television studio.

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SAVE THIS AD!

Reporter remains captive in lawless African region

LINDHOUT Few cut as glamorous a figure as the freelance journalist in a conflict zone, especially when she is a long-legged beauty. Laptop computer, digital cameras and colourful head scarves in tow, she cinematically charms her way through police checkpoints and border crossings to report on war and humanitarian disaster.

The description fits Amanda Lindhout, Canada's forgotten hostage in Africa.

The killing yesterday of British tourist Edwin Dyer in the West African country of Mali, by an al-Qaida wing, brings her wrenching ordeal to mind.

So does the image last week of Lindhout begging for her life in a five-minute phone interview with Agence France-Presse in Paris.

Lindhout, 27, grew up in the Alberta town of Sylvan Lake, just outside Red

Somalia

- No national Somali government has existed since 1991. No Western aid workers operate there. No Western news agencies dare enter. The country's chief economic activity amounts to piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Deer.

On Aug. 20, 2008 she arrived with 37-year-old Australian photographer Nigel Brennan in Mogadishu, Somalia, one of the world's most lawless places.

Three days later, on Aug. 23, Lindhout and Brennan were kidnapped by bandits 20 kilometres away at Afgoye, a shantytown for people displaced by fighting. Their condition appears to be deteriorating.

In February, word of a failed escape attempt reached Journalists Without Borders.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mint missing precious metals

INVESTIGATION The hunt for the gold is on. The missing gold, that is.

The world-renowned Royal Canadian Mint has called investigators to look into what could be the theft of a significant quantity of gold, silver and other precious metals.

"We're conducting a review. We've asked a third party to assist us with that and we should have the results within the next few weeks and by the end of month we'll be making them public," said mint spokeswoman Christine Aquino. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

RCMP casts shadow over evidence

OLIPHANT The RCMP has no records to support Brian Mulroney's evidence that officers escorted him to at least one meeting where he received cash payments from German-Canadian businessman Karlheinz Schreiber.

"There are no RCMP records available to show that RCMP officers accompanied Mr. Mulroney in a couple of instances," said inquiry counsel Evan Roitenberg, adding the information was not meant "to challenge in any way Mr. Mulroney's assertion that RCMP officers accom-

Request

- Commission counsel had requested all documents or records of officers involved in accompanying Brian Mulroney on several dates.

panied him."

At one point during his six days on in the stand before the inquiry, Mulroney even appeared to joke he was in good hands when he received a \$75,000 cash payment at a hotel near Mirabel Airport on Aug. 27, 1993 — the first of three

cash payments — and was driven by the RCMP back to a nearby cottage, which was the family's temporary home at the time.

"The RCMP made every effort, and conducted diligent searches, to locate all relevant documents and identify all RCMP members who accompanied or provided security for Mr. Mulroney on the dates (provided by the inquiry)... (but) the RCMP has no surviving record of receiving a request for, or of providing protective services for Mr. Mulroney," said the statement. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Vets chide image focus

MILITARY Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen who have retired are complaining that the dirty work of war is losing ground to a force obsessed with image, political correctness and the kind of inclusiveness one might expect to find in the most corporate of corporations.

A sampling of the questionnaires that are completed by all retiring members of the military were

obtained by the Star under the Access to Information Act.

Retirees were asked why they decided to leave the military and then were presented with a number of statements about the Canadian Forces with which they could agree or disagree.

The main reason behind a soldier's decision to find new work has been family.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Japanese transport ministry officials got tips this week from professional comedians as part of training. "By experiencing comedy routines, we hope they can learn more about how to speak to clients," said Atsuya Kawada, deputy director of the ministry's personnel division. **REUTERS**

Funny business

World



British woman gets life in Laotian jail

A British woman who became pregnant while awaiting trial in Laos was sentenced yesterday to life in prison after being found guilty of drug smuggling. A court gave Samantha Orobator, left, the maximum prison term after a three-hour hearing held behind closed doors. The state-run Vientiane Times reported that Orobator impregnated herself to avoid the death penalty by secretly obtaining sperm from another prisoner. **REUTERS**

OAS lifts ban on Cuba membership

CUBA The Organization of American States lifted its suspension of Cuba yesterday, opening the door for the country to return to the regional group after 47 years. The 34-member body unanimously scrapped a 1962 decision that suspended Cuba as Fidel Castro's revolution took the island toward communism. U.S. president Barack Obama has taken steps toward a more open relationship with Cuba. Cuba has repeatedly said it has no interest in returning to the OAS, describing it as an instrument of U.S. policy in Latin America. **REUTERS**

Not guilty pleas in NYC bomb plot

TERROR Four men accused of trying to blow up a pair of New York synagogues and shoot down military planes pleaded not guilty yesterday to the charges in a U.S. court. Their appearance came a day after a federal grand jury indictment was unsealed, formally accusing them of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and conspiracy to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles. **REUTERS**

Bomb not ruled out

Search crews flying over the Atlantic found debris from a crashed Air France jet spread over more than 90 kilometres of ocean yesterday, reinforcing the possibility it broke up in the air.

The first Brazilian navy ship was nearing the crash area, about 1,100 kilometres northeast of Brazil's coast, to begin the difficult task of retrieving the remains of the Airbus A330 that mysteriously fell out of the sky two days ago on its way from Rio de Janeiro to Paris.

Air force pilots searching the area have reported no signs of survivors or even the bodies of any of the 228 people on board. French officials said they may never discover why the plane went down as the flight data and voice recorders may be lost at the bottom of the ocean.

With officials struggling



Paris Archbishop Andre Vingt-Trois, right, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, middle, and first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy leave the Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris after a service yesterday for relatives and families of the passengers of Air France Flight 447.

to explain how a modern aircraft could have crashed in stormy weather that is routine on the transatlantic route, speculation grew that a bomb could have caused the worst crash in Air France's 75-year history.

Officials and aviation specialists have said bad weather could be behind the disaster, but have refused to rule out other causes, including terrorism.

Given the challenging location of the crash, its cause may never be known.

"I am not totally optimistic. We cannot rule out that we will not find the flight recorders," said Paul Louis Arslanian, the head of France's air accident investigation agency.

France is dispatching a mini submarine that can explore to a depth of 6,000 metres and will try to locate the Airbus's flight data and voice recorders, which should shed light on a crash that has puzzled aviation experts. **REUTERS**

Bomb threat four days earlier

• Air France said yesterday it had received an anonymous telephone warning that a bomb was on a flight leaving Buenos Aires, Argentina, on May 27, four days before the

crash. A spokesman said the plane was checked, no bomb was found and the aircraft left an hour and a half late. He added that such alerts were relatively common.

Obama to make case to the Muslim world

U.S. president Barack Obama plans to tell Arabs and Israelis to stop saying one thing in public and another in private when he speaks to the Muslim world in Cairo today.

In an interview with the *New York Times* published yesterday, Obama suggested parties to the conflict were engaged in a constant "Kabuki dance."

A key part of his message, Obama said, would be: "Stop saying one thing behind closed doors and saying something else publicly." Many Israelis recognize a need to make tough choices on Jewish settlements, many Palestinians recognize a need to stop incitement against Israel and be more constructive, and many Arab states view the threat of a nuclear Iran as

Bin Laden tape

• Osama bin Laden threatened Americans in a new tape recording aired yesterday, saying U.S. President Barack Obama has inflamed hatred toward the U.S. by ordering Pakistan to crack down on militants in Swat Valley. The message was broadcast on Al-Jazeera Television at the same time Obama arrived in Saudi Arabia. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

greater than any threat from Israel — but none would say these things publicly, he said.

Obama headed to the Middle East Tuesday hoping to mend ties to the Islamic world in a speech aides said would deal with tough issues.

"We have a joke around the White House," the president said. "We're just going to keep on telling the truth until it stops working — and nowhere is truth-telling more important than the Middle East." **REUTERS**

"Nowhere is truth-telling more important than the Middle East."

Barack Obama

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN Australia's soldiers fighting Taliban militants in Afghanistan are up in arms, over Dutch food. A special team of Australian cooks had been rushed to Afghanistan to produce "Aussie food" after scores of soldiers complained about the Dutch-run mess at

Tirin Kot military base, in Uruzgan province, parliament was told yesterday. "It's true that people have been quite strong in their views about the European food," Australia's military commander Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston told lawmakers. **REUTERS**

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Lower drinking ages linked to pregnancy complications: Report

Researchers found there was a link between more lenient drinking ages and the risk of premature birth among women younger than 21. **REUTERS**

world 7



French police block a demonstration in Paris yesterday by the press activist group Reporters Without Borders to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in China.

U.S. has tough words on Tiananmen deaths

The United States demanded yesterday that China account for those killed in the Tiananmen Square protests in rare public criticism ahead of the 20th anniversary of the government crackdown on the demonstrations.

One day before the anniversary, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also called on China to release all those still imprisoned in connection with the pro-democracy protests, to stop harassing those who took part in them and to begin a dialogue with the victims' families.

The demands, issued in a written statement from Clinton, reflect views Washington has long held but represent a tougher stance on China's human

Heavy presence

- Chinese security forces blanketed Tiananmen Square before today's 20th anniversary of the June 4 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators, and a day after Twitter and other Internet services in China were blocked. Black police vans lurked at the side of the Forbidden City, near the square, while police and paramilitary forces patrolled through crowds of tourists.

rights record than the top U.S. diplomat had taken in her first four months in the job.

In February, Clinton disappointed many rights groups by saying that human rights issues could not

"interfere with" tackling the global financial crisis, climate change and security challenges such as North Korea's nuclear programs.

"A China that has made enormous progress economically and is emerging to take its rightful place in global leadership should examine openly the darker events of its past and provide a public accounting of those killed, detained or missing, both to learn and to heal," Clinton said in the statement.

Tanks rolled into Tiananmen Square before dawn on June 4, 1989 to crush weeks of student and worker protests. The ruling Communist Party, which has never released a death toll, fears any commemoration could challenge its hold on power. **REUTERS**

Scandal continues to hurt Brown

BRITAIN A second British cabinet minister announced yesterday, undermining Prime Minister Gordon Brown's authority and raising doubts about his political future. Communities minister Hazel Blears' decision to quit, on the eve of European and local elections in which Brown's Labour Party faces a rout, followed a similar move by Britain's first female interior minister and pre-empted a widely expected cabinet reshuffle. Blears and Jacqui Smith are the highest profile casualties of disclosures about outlandish, taxpayer-funded expense claims made by members of parliament at a time when recession is forcing hundreds of thousands out of work. Hard-hit by the scandal, Labour trails the opposition Conservatives by up to 20 points with a parliamentary election due by mid-2010. **REUTERS**

Mock hanging has authorities seeing red

AUSTRALIA A student who fell with a noose around his neck during a mock class hanging that was arranged by teachers has enraged Australian authorities.

The high school student fell from a table while fellow students, under the supervision of a teacher, were photographing a staged hanging as part of an English class project.

"It beggars belief that such an incident could take place," Queensland state Education Minister Geoff Wilson told local radio yesterday.

Students and teachers rushed to the boy and cut

"It beggars belief that such an incident could take place."

State Education Minister Geoff Wilson

the rope when he fell, although local newspapers said the boy turned blue before he was freed.

The student was allowed to go home with his mother after being examined by paramedics, while authorities launched an investigation into how the incident occurred. **REUTERS**

News in brief

KENYA Police officers responsible for the death of more than 1,000 people following Kenya's December 2007 elections "remain immune from

prosecution 18 months later," a United Nations human rights envoy said yesterday. **REUTERS**

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Comment

Prejudice at the altar

Banning same-sex marriage a shame on the U.S.

Relating

Andrea
Woo



metronews.ca/woo

Frustration has been rainbow-coloured since the California Supreme Court ruled on Prop 8, upholding the ban on same-sex marriage in the Golden State.

The announcement, made last Tuesday, means the roughly 18,000 couples who married in the short window they were legally able — from mid-June to early November 2008 — will not be affected. Other same-sex couples who want to swap rings from here on

out, however, are SOL.

It's a little disheartening that in an era of change and renewed optimism such prejudice is still legally enforced, no?

Here in Canada, same-sex marriage was legalized province-by-province since 2003, until it was recognized nationwide two years later. It is currently legal in six other countries and is expected to be legal in six U.S. states by the end of the year.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, cyborg assassin from the future and a longtime Republican who upheld the court's decision, conceded that one day "either the people or courts will recognize gay marriage." Even former U.S. vice-president Dick Cheney, another killer automaton, voiced his support.

On the web

For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

"I think that freedom means freedom for everyone," Cheney said at the National Press Club earlier this week, echoing statements he made in 2004. "I think people ought to be free to enter into any kind of union they wish, any kind of arrangement they wish."

Some opponents say it hinders procreation and tarnishes the sanctity of marriage, but people in "traditional" marriages aren't required to have kids and us straight folks have been ruining the sanctity of marriage for as long as marriages have existed.

Some states offer domes-

tic partnerships and civil unions — a major step in the right direction — but stopping there is akin to the "separate but equal" doctrine under the Jim Crow laws of the late 1800s and early 1900s that had blacks drinking from separate water fountains than whites.

Slavery was legal in the U.S. just 150 years ago, some women couldn't vote just 100 years ago and the reality of a black president seemed far away just two years ago. It is my belief that we will one day look back on the banning of same-sex marriage — perhaps the last legally enforced prejudice in North America — with the same humility and quiet shame.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.



Worth mentioning

Spurned suitor offers ring in treasure hunt

A New Zealand man, spurned by the woman of his dreams, has come up with a novel way of disposing of the diamond engagement ring he bought her — a treasure hunt.

Anyone keen to pick up the ring, valued at \$3,268 US, will need to be in New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, Saturday to join the hunt, the Dominion Post newspaper reported.

"I met this girl I thought was pretty cool, bought a ring. Turns out she wasn't as keen," Anthony Gardiner, a 29-year-old call-centre worker, told the Dominion Post.

Clues to the ring's

whereabouts will start being posted on social networking site Twitter at 8 a.m. New Zealand time Saturday.

Having bought the ring in Hong Kong, he couldn't return it, and didn't want to sell it, so he hit upon the treasure hunt.

Hanging on to it in the hopes of finding a willing recipient is also not an option.

"Obviously, it's been a pretty unlucky ring for me," Gardiner said, adding he hoped it would be found by somebody who has "found a cool chick and who wants to give them something they normally wouldn't be able to afford."

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

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Should women be allowed to wear face-covering veils in court?

82%
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Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca

Views

What governments should be doing

InBusiness

Charles
Davies



The two previous columns in this series have talked about what government shouldn't be doing — bailing out corporate failures and becoming active participants in the private sector. But what is government's proper role in the economy?

To take a spin through Economics 101, government is there to define the ground rules of commerce through laws and regulations. It regulates economic activity by using fiscal policy (taxing and spending) and monetary policy (interest rates and other credit controls). It also

monitors and regulates Canadian international business interests by making and enforcing trade agreements.

Government rightly provides a social safety net in the form of employment insurance, public pensions and other supplements based on age and/or circumstances. In a recession, government is obliged to use its resources — our tax dollars — to help out.

It's best prepared to do this by running budget surpluses in good times, building up a reserve that can be used in hard times when it may be necessary to run a deficit. Mostly, this doesn't happen because governments tend to make economic decisions for political reasons.

One way the Harper Conservatives managed to turn a surplus into a record \$50-billion deficit

Bailout Series

(Editor's note: This is the final part of Charles Davies' series on financial bailouts.)

in a blink of Jim Flaherty's eye is they cut the GST before the recession to appeal to voters, forfeiting revenues that would be helpful right about now.

It's perfectly reasonable to spend tax dollars to provide assistance to individuals (in the form of extended benefits) and companies in general (tax measures) in a recession. Public works spending on infrastructure or research and development that benefits the economy in general is also useful.

It's also fitting that governments provide support to key industries — i.e. aerospace and forest products, to name two — so

they can compete internationally on an equal footing with foreign companies that have equivalent support from their governments. The critical distinction here is that government should not be in the business of shielding uncompetitive and/or dying companies like GM or Chrysler from market realities.

Otherwise, government is there to be the honest broker or economic referee — providing clear, fair and consistently applied business regulation and enforcement, tax policies and broad-based incentives.

In short, its job is to level the playing field so everyone — companies as well as individuals — gets a fair shake.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.



Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax. Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Gates encourages rich to give away wealth

Microsoft founder Bill Gates said yesterday that billionaires ought to give away most of their wealth to charitable causes, and that they would even find they enjoy it. Gates has given much of his wealth to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a philanthropic powerhouse. **REUTERS**



Business

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The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

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Acoustech Construction and Technologies Ltd. paid \$30,182 in restitution and was fined \$5,857 yesterday after pleading guilty to defrauding the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

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Trade backlash feared

'Buy Canadian' reaction may hurt Canada: MP

The Canadian government is worried that towns and cities could start introducing "Buy Canadian" policies in response to increased U.S. protectionism, Trade Minister Stockwell Day said yesterday.

A "Buy American" provision in the U.S. economic stimulus package passed by Congress in February says public works projects should use iron, steel and other goods made in the United States.

Ottawa says Canadian companies are being discriminated against by U.S. state and municipal governments on some water and sewage treatment projects funded by the bill. Day said the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Media response

• The New York Times said yesterday in its lead editorial that the "Buy American" clause was "a terrible idea" that could ultimately cost U.S. jobs.

ties, which is due to hold its annual general meeting from tomorrow to June 8, would discuss a proposal to shut out companies from nations that impose trade restrictions on Canadian firms.

"I understand that reaction. I'm also very concerned about that reaction," Day said in a speech, adding that both countries would be hurt by increased protectionism.

Canada sends about 75 per cent of all its exports to the United States and could be economically crippled by a serious wave of U.S. protectionism.

"If one country starts to build protectionist barriers that hurt businesses in another country, there will be an impulse to retaliate, and I would like to see this resolved at the executive level in the United States," Day later told reporters.

Later in the day, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in Quebec that the "Buy American" policies of certain state and local governments were "really problematic (and) is part of the increasing protectionism ... that we must avoid to ensure a global recovery."

REUTERS

Office space costs drop

PROPERTY A depressed global economy that has seen commercial rents fall dramatically in most major cities has knocked perennial front-runner London out of the top spot among the most expensive places to set up an office.

But Toronto and Calgary remain in the global Top 50 because Canada has been relatively healthy compared to other financial centres, according to a report by CB Richard Ellis released yesterday.

Toronto is the 46th most expensive place to rent

top-quality office space, up one spot from last year, with average rents of \$51.82 US per square foot. Calgary moved up three spots to 39th, with average costs per square foot of \$54.57.

"It's not that Calgary and Toronto did all that great; it's that other world markets have taken a bashing," said John O'Bryan, vice-chairman of CB Richard Ellis.

Former No. 1 London was knocked off this year by Tokyo.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**Business in brief**

INVESTIGATION Toronto-Dominion Bank said yesterday it was looking into allegations that a handful of traders improperly passed on rumours to clients about a stock, believed to be oilsands compa-

ny OPTI Canada. A media report said an analyst at TD emailed a market rumour to the firm's sales and trading desk in New York, which then passed it to some institutional sources.

REUTERS

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If you missed the live broadcast of this year's IWK Telethon for Children and would like to make a contribution, please call 1800-595-2266 or visit www.iwkfoundation.org



Vancouver Olympic organizers have signed a deal to offset carbon emissions from the 2010 Winter Games. B.C.-based Offsetters will invest in technology such as hydrogen fuel cells to offset 110,000 tonnes of carbon emissions. But the \$5-million deal doesn't include an estimated 190,000 tonnes of "indirect" emissions generated by the Games. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



T.O.'s house-hunting woes

New Buffalo Bills wide receiver Terrel Owens, left, has apparently run into a snag looking for a place to stay in Buffalo. Tuesday night, Owens posted a message through Twitter.com that he's "tripping about residents" that won't rent an Orchard Park, N.Y. house to him because they "(don't) want any drama in their neighborhood!! LOL!!! Wow!!!" Real estate agent Bob Wozniak reportedly disputed Owens' complaint. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONWS.CA

Wings hope for a healthy Datsyuk

(Detroit leads series 2-1)

Detroit at Pittsburgh



Detroit Red Wings centre Pavel Datsyuk, a finalist for the Hart trophy as NHL MVP, could be fit to play in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup finals, the defending champions said yesterday.

Datsyuk, who has not played since injuring his foot blocking a shot during the Western Conference final against the Chicago Blackhawks, said he felt good and was keen to get into the lineup against the Pittsburgh Penguins tonight.

Detroit coach Mike Babcock said the team would wait until after this morning's skate before making a final decision.

"What we'll do is we'll go for the optional skate in the morning and see how he responded today and see how he felt," Babcock told reporters. "He's a Hart Trophy candidate. He's one of the best players in the world."

"Obviously, we'd like to have him. But it's one of those injuries. I thought we needed him the day we lost him against Chicago and I think we've needed him

every game since.

"But guys have stepped up, done a real good job and given us an opportunity."

Detroit leads the best-of-seven final 2-1, but appeared to lack energy late in Tuesday's 4-2 Game 3 defeat.

Datsyuk's return would lift some of the burden off Henrik Zetterberg, who has been logging heavy minutes checking Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby. **REUTERS**



Detroit's Pavel Datsyuk stretches during the team's practice yesterday for tonight's Game 4 of the Stanley Cup final.

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All for naught without NBA championship, Kobe says

BASKETBALL Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant has enjoyed one of the most rewarding seasons of his career, but he says that would count for nothing if his team fails to win the NBA Finals against the Orlando Magic.

The best-of-seven series starts tonight with Game 1 at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles with the Western Conference champion Lakers installed as favourites.

"It's been a helluva year, winning a gold medal and making it to the finals last year," Bryant told reporters after the Lakers completed a practice ses-

NBA Final Preview

Orlando at L.A. Lakers



sion at Staples Center. "We didn't win, but we gained valuable experience."

The Lakers were beaten by the Boston Celtics in last year's finals, two months before Bryant and his U.S. teammates won Olympic gold in Beijing with an 118-107 victory over world champions Spain.

"Being on that Olympic

team, building the friendships we built there, coming back to this season and having the season that we've had to this point, it's been very rewarding."

Asked if all that would go to waste if the upstart Magic upset the Lakers in the NBA's season finale, Bryant replied: "In my eyes, yes."

"This is what I play for all summer. All I thought about was the Olympics and the gold medal. We were able to accomplish that. My next goal is winning the NBA championship and we don't want to fall short of that."

REUTERS

French Open Serena out



Serena Williams follows through on a shot during her 7-6, 5-7, 7-5 quarter-final loss to Svetlana Kuznetsova yesterday at the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros in Paris. Kuznetsova will face Australian doubles specialist Samantha Stosur in a semifinal. The other semi will be contested between world No. 1 Dinara Safina and Dominika Cibulkova.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Jered Weaver struck out a career-high 10 batters in seven strong innings, Bobby Abreu hit a two-run homer and drove in four as the Angels cruised to an 8-1 win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

NHL The Colorado Avalanche began their rebuilding process in a major way yesterday, firing head coach Tony Granato and naming Greg Sherman general manager. The NHL club sacked Granato and five other members of the hockey operations staff after the team posted its worst record since moving to Denver from Quebec in 1995.

SOCCER FIFA released its latest world rankings yesterday and Canada's men's national team climbed six places to No. 83 after its 1-0 win over Cyprus. European champion Spain celebrated a year at No. 1 while the Netherlands climbed to second. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Mooseheads teammates reunited in France?

Former Halifax Mooseheads teammates and Vancouver Canucks draft picks Francois-Pierre Guenette and Marc-Andre Bernier appear to have been reunited with Briancon of the top pro hockey league in France, the club's official website reports.

METRO HALIFAX

sports **11**

Mooseheads star to try out in Russia

Scoring leader Cheremetiev will head to Moscow 'to see how he likes it,' dad says

MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads are suddenly at risk of watching another high-scoring forward bolt overseas.

Yuri Cheremetiev, who tied for the Mooseheads' lead in scoring last season, has been offered a two-year contract by CSKA Moscow of the Kontinental Hockey League. He hasn't signed, but will travel to Russia in July for a tryout.

The 20-year-old was born in Moscow, but grew up in the U.S. after moving to Stoughton, Mass., when he

was five.

"The biggest thing is, he doesn't even remember what Russia looks like," said Cheremetiev's father, Vadim. "We agreed, at this point, just to go to Russia and see how he likes it."

The Mooseheads already lost sniper Jan Stransky, who signed a two-year contract with Plzen of the Czech ExtraLiga last month. Stansky was the team's top scorer after arriving from the Gatineau Olympiques in a mid-season trade.

Cheremetiev, who had 49 points in 65 games last season, was picked by CSKA Moscow in the second

For more coverage of the Halifax Mooseheads and the QMJHL draft, follow @metrofiles on Twitter or visit: metronews.ca/mooseheads

week's inaugural KHL draft. Sergei Nemchinov, who was named CSKA's head coach last month, coached Cheremetiev in the Canada-Russia Challenge last November.

Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell said yesterday the news is no surprise to him. He said it's similar to an NHL tryout, which QMJHL players get regularly, although he

admitted it could "definitely hurt our hockey team."

"I've talked to him about it a couple of times and it's a great experience for him to go and see what it's all about in that part of the world," Russell said. "If things don't work out there, then we'd be happy to have him back here."

By offering Cheremetiev a contract, CSKA is believed to retain his KHL signing rights until April 30, 2017. The minimum KHL salary is believed to be more than \$100,000 US.

CSKA's camp starts July 20 and includes a 10-day stint in Finland.



Mooseheads star Yuri Cheremetiev has been offered a two-year contract by CSKA Moscow of the Kontinental Hockey League.



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Local talent battling to earn CFL jobs

FOOTBALL With Canadian Football League training camps set to officially open on the weekend, Metro Halifax takes a look at the local talent vying for roster spots this summer.

EDMONTON: Former Saint Mary's Huskies linebacker Tim St. Pierre is back with the Eskimos for a second season. Other: LB Andrea Bonaventura (Saint Mary's); DB Elliott Richardson (Acadia); OL Adam Rogers (Acadia).

SASKATCHEWAN: Saint Mary's has three former defensive backs vying for spots: Joel Lipinski, Jeff Zelinski and Sebastian Clovis. Lipinski and Zelinski are rookies. Clovis is in his



Former Huskie Joel Lipinski is competing for a spot on the roster of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

third season. Other: LB Mike McCullough (St. F.X.).

WINNIPEG: Halifax native and former Huskies star Steve Morley is looking to get things back on track with the Blue Bombers. The former NFLer was signed

from Toronto as a free agent. Other: WR Ivan Birungi (Acadia).

HAMILTON: Former Saint Mary's receiver Darcy Brown, drafted sixth overall last month, begins his foray in the CFL as a fullback. An-

other Huskies grad, slot-back Dave Stala, is looking to bounce back from two injury-plagued seasons with Montreal. Other: DB Sean Manning, Hamilton (St.F.X.).

TORONTO: Dartmouth offensive guard Gordon Sawyer is hoping to crack the Argos as a rookie out of St. F.X.

MONTREAL: CB Kwasi Nkansah (St. F.X.).

BRITISH COLUMBIA: WR Matt Carter (Acadia).

CALGARY: OL Godfrey Ellis (Acadia), OL Steve Mydelton (St. F.X.), OL Derek Armstrong (St. F.X.).

MATTHEW WUEST
/METRO HALIFAX

Big weekend ahead for Nova Scotia paddlers

WORLD CUP Eight Nova Scotians hit the water again this weekend in the hopes of taking another step toward qualifying for August's world sprint canoe-kayak championships in Dartmouth.

Olympians Andrew Russell of Dartmouth, Karen Furneaux of Waverley and Jillian D'Alessio of Middle Sackville lead the Bluenose contingent into the final World Cup event in Szeged, Hungary,

on Saturday and Sunday.

Also competing is Lake Echo's Genevieve Orton, who won silver at last month's World Cup in Poland. The other Nova Scotians are Connor Taras and Shaun Fair of Waverley, Lyall Hatton of Bedford and Una Lounder of Dartmouth.

The next stage of world qualifying comes with two sets of national team trials later this month and in July.

MATTHEW WUEST
/METRO HALIFAX

Genevieve Orton



Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Knowing the best soil for your needs is imperative in gardening.

The lowdown on dirt

With so many options, where is a new gardener to start?

Black earth, top soil, lawn soil, potting soil ... They all basically look the same, so does it really make a difference which one you use?

"Selecting the right soil is your first step to gardening success," says Scotts Canada growing media specialist Syd Pell. "Soils are actually made up of several different ingredients, blended for a specific gardening use. These ingredients may include topsoil, sand, manure, sphagnum peat moss, humus, compost, perlite and bark. The mix ratio determines how well the soil will support the specific requirements of each plant type, such as nutrients, root support, drainage and moisture retention."

Here's a guide to some of the most popular soil types.

• **Lawn soil** is specifically

"Selecting the right soil is your first step to gardening success."

Syd Pell of Scotts Canada

blended to support over-seeding and the growth of healthy grass. It is a blend of sphagnum peat moss, compost and manure. These ingredients increase porosity, allowing more water and nutrients to reach the roots.

• **Garden soil** helps improve soil condition and control moisture. It is blended to support and nurture the delicate roots of vegetables and flowers. It often comprises nutrient-rich ingredients such as composted matter, manure, and peat.

• **Topsoil and Black earth** work as a base for gardens

and lawns and for filling in holes and leveling lawns. Typically low in nutrients, they should be amended with other more nutrient rich products. Premium topsoils, such as Scotts Pro Blends Top Soil add compost and sphagnum peat moss for improved nutrients and drainage.

• **Organic compost** is designed for in-ground gardens. Scotts Pro Blends Organic compost is a professional-quality blend of compost and manure, containing essential organic matter from composted leaves and yard clippings. Add it to flower and vegetable beds

for healthier plant growth and more abundant vegetables and blooms.

• **Potting mix.** Since container-bound plants live in a self-contained eco system, proper moisture control is essential. Miracle-Gro Moisture Control Potting Mix contains coconut fibre, which retains moisture between waterings while improving soil aeration and drainage.

• **Top it all off with mulch.** Mulch not only makes your garden look great, but also retards weed growth, helps conserve soil moisture and act as a plant blanket by moderating soil temperatures. Keep your garden looking beautiful longer with innovative Nature Scapes mulch, which is guaranteed not to fade to gray.

NEWS CANADA

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Avoiding the dreaded bedbug

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

Travelling anytime in the near future? Keep in mind that you need to be careful not to bring home unwelcome guests.

If you haven't guessed it already, I'm talking about bedbugs.

There are many recommendations to keep them out of your home, but one way they move around is by hitchhiking, moving around in luggage and clothing of travelling people. So it is easy to bring home — shall we say — souvenirs of our time away.

These bugs are visible to the eye and range in size up to a quarter-inch in length. They can be as flat as a piece of paper before feeding, and look fatter after they've had their supper. See

toronto.ca/health/bedbugs.htm for pictures and information to help you identify the bug.

They can be found more frequently in hotels, even in well-kept hotels, or other

places where travellers sleep, so get into the habit of routinely checking beds for signs of the bugs' presence when you travel. Given half a chance, they can settle in very nicely in other places, including homes and even offices and other public places, so don't give them that chance.

When you stay in a hotel, you don't have to tear the place apart, but do lift up the sheet and take a close look at the tufts in the mattress, and check out the hidden space under the piping around the mattress edges. But, if you see evidence that the bugs have been visiting, such as tiny red or brown pinpoint stains on the mattress or linens, inform the management right away (since they need to take immediate measures to get rid of the bedbugs) and ask to change your room, preferably to the other side of the building. Bug bodies or skins (since they shed their skins) or pinhead-sized whitish eggs in cracks are also not good signs.

When you stay in a hotel, protect yourself further by leaving all belongings in your luggage and avoid putting them in drawers. Since these bugs do not fly and get around by crawling, do not leave luggage on the

floor—place it on baggage racks or shelves off the floor, and make sure the suitcase is completely zipped shut when you are not using it. You may want to tape the ends of zippers, or even wrap it in plastic to seal shut any possible way for a bedbug to find its way into your suitcase. Finally, do not leave clothing strewn about, as bedbugs can hide in seams of clothing or behind labels.

And if you wake up with itchy bumps or spots on your skin that were not there on the previous evening, you can suspect that you may have been bitten by a bedbug. If it happens, do not panic. However unsavoury, bedbugs do not appear to transmit diseases, but many people develop itchy spots, much like mosquito bites. However, do take precautions to avoid bringing them home.

When you get home, leave luggage in the garage or an isolated space in the home, and only bring in the contents when you are ready to wash them in hot water. Dry them in the hottest dryer setting possible.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show *Arresting Design*; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

The fine art of bird attraction

GARDENS For many gardeners, having songbirds visit is one of the benefits of having a garden in the first place. It's always a delight to see the variety of birds that drop by for a nibble or a rest. If you want to create a bird-friendly garden, it's important to attract them with natural sources of food as well as using bird feeders.

Birds have simple needs: Food, water, shelter, and protection from predators. Naturally, native birds thrive on native plants, so choose a selection of regional beauties that produce seeds, berries, or nectar. Work dead trees or old stumps into your landscape to attract insect-eaters and provide shelter. The more diverse your food supply is, the more variety of birds you'll see in your garden.

Also, you can help birds by placing bird feeders in your yard, filling them with a high quality seed that is balanced in nutrition, like Scotts or Morning Song Wild Bird Food. The type of food you feed attracts different kinds of birds. Smaller seeds like thistle seed attract bright yellow gold finches. Larger birds like to perch on feeders and eat mixes of seed — mainly sunflower.

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Shed some light

The light kit on a fan can **add an extra glow to any room.**
There are many kits available on the market today; bowl shaped light kits will add a soft glow to any room, down lighting kits have exposed bulbs which gives lots of light but can be glary, up-lighting kits can add significantly to the ambiance of a room by casting a warm glow on the ceiling.

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A new online resource is helping busy women bring order and ease to weekly meal planning and grocery shopping: It's called "The Eat Sheet" and it's free. Parenting site MommyTrackd.com offers the download mommytrackd.com/downloads. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

As many greens grow in sandy soil, cleaning in several changes of water is often necessary to remove all the grit. Pull off the stems, breaking them off at the leaf.

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA



Spin it

Rinse in several changes of water and spin dry in a salad spinner.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Grazing through the greens

Some of the first greens of spring are showing up at your local market

À la carte

Barb Holland



metronews.ca/alacarte

A variety of greens are one of the first crops at the market: Lettuces, spinach, arugula and watercress. These tender greens tend to be delicate and supple in texture and provide variety, flavour and texture to salads.

More mature greens, dandelion, mustard, chard, kale and the like, will come along in a few weeks and they generally need cooking. Mature greens tend to have large, tough leaves. If you break off a piece and chew it, it will be leathery.

Some mature greens, such as dandelion and mustard, will be unpleasantly bitter even if they are not especially tough. Mature greens should be blanched by steaming or

boiling briefly in water before cooking them.

Simple Spring Salad with Maple Glazed Nuts

Look for locally grown arugula and watercress for a peppery punch. The sweetness of the maple-glazed pecans contrasts nicely with the bitterness of some greens and the sharpness of Asiago cheese. Asiago is a good grating cheese, so buy a piece and use a cheese shaver for attractive pieces. Makes four servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 cups (1.5 L) mixed lettuce greens
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) pecan halves
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) maple syrup

Dressing:

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) extra-virgin olive oil

Fresh and light



Check your market for some local spring produce — there are countless ways to dress a salad.

- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- Pinch pepper
- 1 oz (30 g) Asiago cheese, shaved

METHOD:

Wash greens and spin dry. Wrap in clean tea towel in

plastic bag, or store greens in salad spinner in refrigerator until needed. Place pecans in large dry

skillet over medium heat. Stir a few minutes until fragrant. Stir maple syrup into nuts and cook a few minutes or until well coated and syrup is absorbed into nuts. Transfer to parchment-lined plate to cool. Before serving, break any pecans apart that stick together.

For dressing, whisk together vinegar, oil, salt and pepper, cover and refrigerate until serving.

To serve, re-whisk and toss greens with dressing. Arrange on plates and top each salad with pecans and shaved cheese.

TIPS:

• Dark green cruciferous vegetables, such as arugula, kale, collards, kohlrabi, mustard greens and watercress are members of the Brassica family and are packed with folate, vitamins E and C, potassium, calcium and iron.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Merlin's mixing tips for the perfect party cocktail

Merlin Griffiths, master mixologist and Bombay Sapphire Gin global brand ambassador, has travelled the world perfecting his craft and educating consumers and professional bartenders alike on the art of mixology. He offers the following tips to take your cocktails from good to great.

- Don't be afraid to keep it simple — using too many flavours will confuse your

taste buds. As a general rule, never use more than four ingredients in a cocktail.

- Don't forget ice — and plenty of it. Remove the ice from the freezer five minutes before use to avoid the ice from being too cold which will make it become brittle and sticky.
- Citrus twists will stay intact in ice water.
- Zests and sliced citrus fruits need storing in an airtight container in a cool

place.

- Whole tropical fruits, like pineapple, are best stored at room temperature.
- Soft fruits and berries slice easier when cold.
- Keep all prepared garnishes chilled in airtight containers until needed.
- Remove from the fridge in portions to keep fruit fresh all evening.
- To ensure a complete bar kit, add the following tools to your barware: A sharp fruit knife and cutting board, cocktail measure (shot glass/jigger) and a long handled spoon. Nice extras include a citrus press/juicer, slim rolling pin or "muddler" for crushing fruit and a medium tea strainer for straining fruit pulp.
- Many are familiar with the three-piece shaker featuring the tin base, a cap with a built-in strainer and the top to close it while



Merline Griffiths, Bombay Sapphire global brand ambassador, demonstrates his mixing techniques at an event in Canada.

shaking. Although it does the job, most professional bartenders prefer the two-piece version — called the Boston shaker. It includes a glass which allows you to see the ingredients and quantities and a metal tin

to give more space to shake the ingredients.

For more information and Merlin's demonstrations on shakers, garnishes and mixing premium Bombay Sapphire cocktails, visit bombaysapphire.com.

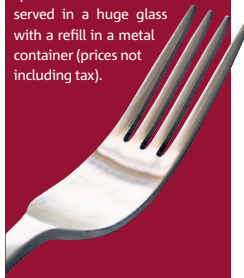
Local Savour

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Breakfast special, \$3.25

This diner doesn't have a website, but it doesn't really need one — its reputation speaks for itself. Nestled on the corner of Quinpool Road and Elm Street in the city's west end, this is a Halifax staple steeped in history, with big servings for cheap prices. The breakfast special is only \$3.25, but try the Lumberjack breakfast featuring three types of meat for \$7.49. Dinner tastes like mom's own, with a roast turkey plate for \$8.25. Milkshakes for \$3.99 are a special treat and are served in a huge glass with a refill in a metal container (prices not including tax).



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Food Banks Canada is reporting an approximately 20 per cent increase in the number of Canadians turning to food banks each month and, as a result, food banks across the country are facing unprecedented challenges providing essential food to those in need. Visit foodbanksCanada.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Liquid Assets**Peter Rockwell**metronews.ca/liquidassets**Join the club**

Looking for a challenge this summer? (And I'm not talking about keeping up with the yard work.) How does grape collecting sound?

Thanks to Steve De Long all you have to do is download his mega list of varieties, check off at least 100 that you've tasted and you can become a member of The Wine Century Club.

Only 590 people (including yours truly) have had the juice of the required number of grapes (and you can count blends) in their mouths. De Long says that he only hears from about three per cent of all the eager imbibers who get his list. He sends those that make the grade a snazzy certificate for their efforts.

If you're looking to get started, try these two back deck whites perfect for warm weather sipping and made with some unique pieces of fruit. **Ironstone Vineyard's 2006 Obsession (\$14.95 - \$16.99)** is a Californian that gets its soft, tropical personality from the Symphony grape.

Sogrape's Gazela Vino Verde (\$8.95 - \$10.92) from Portugal is a non-vintage blend of Loureiro, Pedernã, Trajadura and Azal that's light in alcohol (only nine per cent) with a zingy, lean, green, time-infused flavour. Join the club at winecentury.com.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Ricardo every single night

Celebrity chef offers recipe solutions for all your entertaining needs

Often called "Quebec's answer to Jamie Oliver," Ricardo has made quite an impact on Canadian audiences with his hit show *Ricardo & Friends on Food Network Canada* and his book *Weekend Cooking*.

In his new book, *Meals for Every Occasion*, he shares his fail-proof meal plans and mouthwatering yet simple recipes, which have helped get him out of many entertaining-related binds.

Whether you're having the boss over for dinner, hosting the guys on poker night, or making the perfect brunch for overnight guests, Ricardo helps take the intimidation factor out of entertaining. By grouping the recipes into sections according to the occasion, Ricardo makes sure you have a choice of sure-fire ways to suit any entertaining need.

Metro nabbed this satisfying burger from Ricardo: *Meals for Every Occasion* (Whitecap, 2009) to sink your teeth into.

American-Style Double Cheeseburgers

INGREDIENTS:

Sauce:

- 3/4 cup (180 ml) mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) finely chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) store-

bought French salad dressing (orange coloured)

- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) sweet relish
 - 1 Tbsp (15 ml) finely chopped dill pickle
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) brown sugar
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) ketchup
 - 1 tsp (5 ml) white vinegar
 - Salt and pepper
- Cheeseburgers:**
- 4 hamburger buns
 - 1 1/2 lb (675 g) lean ground beef
 - 4 slices orange processed cheese
 - Sliced sandwich pickles
 - Chopped iceberg lettuce

METHOD:

Sauce:

In a bowl, combine all the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate.

Cheeseburgers:

Preheat the barbecue, setting the burners to high.

Using a bread knife, slice the top halves of the hamburger buns in half. Set aside.

Shape the meat into 8 large but very thin patties. Tip: Place the patties between sheets of plastic wrap and flatten by sliding your hand over the top



These American-Style Double Cheeseburgers are from Ricardo: *Meals for Every Occasion*.

layer.

Grill the patties until well-done, about 3 minutes per side. Season with salt and pepper. Place the cheese slices on 4 of the

patties for the last minute of cooking. Toast the buns.

Assembly:

Spread sauce on the bun bottoms. Lay 1 plain patty on each bun bottom. Gar-

nish with pickle slices. Cover with the bun middles. Spread with sauce and garnish with lettuce. Top with the remaining patties and the bun tops.

Great ways to start a fig conversation

People have been eating figs since 5,000 BC — and for good reason!

Figs were eaten by Greek and Roman athletes to increase their stamina and improve their performance, have the highest overall mineral content of all common fruits, and provide the same amount of calcium as milk.

Here are some more fun facts on figs:

- Figs are an excellent source of dietary fiber, providing five grams of fiber per serving.
- As a token of honour, figs were used as a training food by the early Olympic athletes, and figs were also presented as laurels to the winners as the first Olympic "medal."
- Figs are actually an inverted flower.
- A half-cup of figs has the



same amount of calcium as a half-cup of milk.

- The fig tree is the symbol of abundance, fertility, and sweetness.

- Figs were actually the fruit in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, not apples.

- In ancient Greece black figs for men and white figs for women were worn around the neck during a ceremony of purification.

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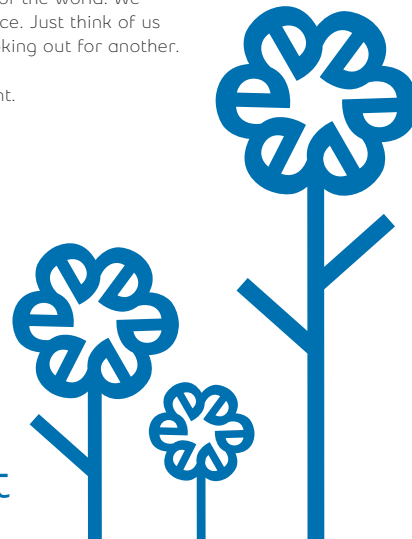
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Style

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Pick up our July issue to get all the behind-the-scenes gossip from our *Project Runway Canada* photo shoot!



A free spirit ride

Jessica Biel is more than just Justin's girlfriend!

By ANNE BRODIE
Contributing Writer

In her latest film, *Easy Virtue*, Jessica Biel plays Larita, a feisty American divorcee who is seen as a "gold digger from the land of opportunists." While her co-stars in this frothy British period piece didn't see her in that light, the 27-year-old American actress says that she could relate to her character's struggle to blend in with a well-heeled, upper-crust world. "I felt like a fish

out of water, but it was so helpful," says Biel, who enjoyed a middle-class upbringing in Boulder, Colo. "We just kind of exploited that. Anytime I was feeling uncomfortable, the director rolled the cameras!"

The film, which opens this month, is set in the late 1920s and based on a social comedy by Noel Coward that pokes fun at snooty English high society and, at a deeper social level, exposes how American entrepreneurial zeal was overshadowing Britain's imperialism.

Larita, who is a race-car driver, represents the brave new world crashing into the old when she marries British

aristocrat John Whittaker (Ben Barnes). When the pair arrive at the Whittaker family pile, John's father (Colin Firth) is charmed by Larita's spirited ways, but his mother (Kristin Scott Thomas) is horrified.

For Biel, starring in *Easy Virtue* was a career-enhancing move. "It was exactly what I was looking for, something I could throw myself into where everyone is expecting me to fail," Biel told the British press. "I knew I could do it. That's the joy of this business: shaking it up — surprising myself, surprising everybody else — otherwise, people just put you in a box."

Editors' Pick

STARLET STYLE



Nicole Richie's resumé may be peripatetic — reality-TV star, novelist, wild child, mother — but her sense of personal style is unswerving. No surprise, then, that Richie launched a jewellery line, House of Harlow 1960, this spring that will expand to include clothing accessories next year. "I've always loved jewellery, but I didn't know anything about designing," explains Richie. "I was inspired by African and Indian jewellery books; I wanted the pieces to have a vintage but cultured feel." Does Richie, a mainstay on the best-dressed list, have any fashion advice? "Always wear a ton of jewellery at once," she says firmly. "I designed all the pieces so that they can be layered" (at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com).

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PHOTO FINISH

Richard Avedon's humanity is the most striking feature of Avedon: Fashion 1944–2000, with essays by Carol Squiers, Vince Aletti and Philippe Garner. Instead of shooting models as if they were inanimate props draped with clothing, Avedon was the first photographer to capture them as living, breathing individuals with attitudes and emotions. The other theme in this collection — focusing on nearly six decades of work in Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, *Egoïste* and *The New Yorker* — documents the photographer's collaborative spirit with models, stylists and designers as he pushed the boundaries from fashion to art.



Oh My Sole!

Halifax's fitflop store



Try these on for thighs

"I measured myself this past weekend, and I've lost 1½ inches off my hips! I credit the fitflops (and eating sensibly) for this."

Thank you!

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Del Monte Superfruit Smoothies has sculpted a limited edition popsicle in the shape of Daniel Craig's nude torso. The frozen treat is the result of a poll of women, the majority of whom wanted the image of Craig, emerging from the water in Casino Royale, immortalized. **EW.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Ready for Much

Black Eyed Peas, Classified (left), and Rise Against are among the newest performers who will appear at the 2009 MuchMusic Video Awards, co-hosted by the Jonas Brothers, on June 21. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Phoenix delivers dance-rock gem

Phoenix

Album: Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix

Label: Glass Note

Rating: ●●●●●

PHOENIX HAS DONE

it. The breakdowns, rock-instruments-as-rhythm-machines and synthesizer vocals of the band's past albums have meshed into a near-perfect expression of dance-rock. Singer Thomas Mars uses words like piano keys, seemingly chosen for cadence and rhythm over meaning (maybe one reason the Frenchman sings in English). Stitched deep into a bed of warm, rolling percussion and analog bass, they mimic the arrangements of the band's French house pedigree. Influences from Daft Punk (and former bandmate) Thomas Bangalter and Philippe Zdar from

Cassius (who produced the album) also pop up in the funky bassline in Fences and the sparkling builds of Love Like a Sunset, Parts I and II. I challenge anyone to listen to Lisztomania and 1901 back-to-back and not start head-nodding. Heck, I'm doing it on an airplane right now.

Rob McMahon/for Metro Canada

Vanessa Williams

Album: The Real Thing

Label: Concord/Universal

Rating: ●●●●

AMERICA'S FAVOURITE BEAUTY

queen gracefully enters middle age by caressing the candlelight-and-wine set. Vanessa Williams' fans fall into three categories — the ones who remember the Penthouse pictures and her fall from grace 25 years ago as the first black Miss America, the ones who re-



French band Phoenix has created a near-perfect expression of dance-rock on its latest album.

member her stunning comeback as an R&B singer and the ones who now know her as Wilhelmina on TV's Ugly Betty. This album is for the oldsters who still keep her centrefold tucked under their mattress. It's

filled with sultry renditions of '60s and '70s jazz, pop and Latin standards. Backed by lush orchestration, Williams' voice handles the material surprisingly well. The Real Thing bubbles over with class.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Justin Hines

Album: Chasing Silver

Label: Orange/Universal

Rating: ●●●●

JUSTIN HINES

IS the little guy from Newmarket, Ont., with the big voice now

being featured on the Ontario tourism commercials. (Why don't those ads ever tell you who the artist is?) Chasing Silver is a collection of wonderfully crafted folk songs that reach back into the early '70s era of the singer-songwriter. The 11 original tracks here are filled with musical references to James Taylor, Jim Croce and Carole King.

There are times on this album, especially on tracks like While You Are Out There, when Hines' voice is eerily reminiscent of Cat Stevens, circa Tea For The Tillerman. That kind of charming folk music has been gaining a new audience from young, retro-mining fans. And there's nothing wrong with that.

Hines' outstanding cover of Peter Gabriel's Salisbury Hill will draw a lot of new fans to his music.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

Elvis Costello

Album: Secret, Profane & Sugarcane

Label: Hear/Universal

Rating: ●●●●

RECORDING

AN ALBUM in three days should be a recipe for disaster, but not when the cook is Elvis Costello. Here, the legendary guitarist teams up with T Bone Burnett to create a barn-burning acoustic set of Americana complete with copious amounts of slide guitar and banjo picking. While there are some great tunes — Sulpher to Sugarcane is one — with tracks from his Hans Christian Anderson opera, a Bing Crosby cover and a new version of Complicated Shadows, it is a bit all over the place. While it's not his most focused work, it's still one that Costello fans will enjoy.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Eels

Album: Hombre Lobo:

12 Songs of Desire

Label: Vagrant/Universal

Rating: ●●●●

DESPITE

WHAT SOME

grunge-

loving

'90s

fans

might think, the

Eels didn't disap-

pear after Novo-

cain for The Soul,

an MTV hit 13

years ago. The

group's ninth record

(they've released fairly

solid albums every year or

two) follows a half wolf,

half man character first

introduced to fans on 2001's

Dog Face Boy. Now, the boy

is an adult, dealing with

things like loneliness, love

and heartache — all emo-

otive stuff wrapped in the

band's swaggering alt-rock

sheen. The disc is full of

both loud, infectious tunes

and soft, introspective

numbers, making Hombre

Lobo an eclectic, and

catchy listen.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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Daniel Baldwin replacing celeb couple

Daniel Baldwin is jetting to the jungles of Costa Rica to replace newlyweds Heidi and Spencer Pratt on I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Vardalos rebounds in Life in Ruins

Movie feature

Nia Vardalos couldn't resist adding a shout-out to her fellow Canadians in her new movie, My Life in Ruins.

"Once a Canadian, always a Canadian," quipped the Winnipeg-born writer-actress, whose 2002 debut *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* came out of nowhere to earn more than \$241 million US.

In the romcom *My Life in Ruins*, Vardalos plays a Greek-American college prof who retreats to Athens to work as a tour guide to find her lost kefi — Greek for mojo.

Over the phone from her Los Angeles home, Vardalos says one exchange she penned for the movie was inspired by a scenario she faced a lot when she first moved to California: Americans consider Canada to be the 51st state, something that's guaranteed to rile any True North resident.

Ever a polite Canuck, the 46-year-old refused to take a screenwriting credit on



Nia Vardalos in a scene from *My Life in Ruins*.

My Life in Ruins.

"I asked permission from the writer (The Simpsons Movie's Mike Reiss) to add the Canadian stuff, but I didn't want a credit. That's gross," says Vardalos, sounding appalled at

the mere suggestion.

Such is the down-to-earth style that made moviegoers fall for Vardalos's autobiographical tale of her wedding to a non-Greek. (She and spouse Ian Gomez wed in 1993.)

Vardalos was on top of the world when Greek Wedding hit it big, the culmination of a Hollywood fairy tale that began with actor-spouses Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson investing in the project, which was

based on a stage show written by Vardalos. Nominations for an Oscar and a Golden Globe followed.

(Hanks and Wilson are back on board for *My Life in Ruins*. Wilson also has a small role.)

Things then got bumpy for Vardalos. A 2003 TV show based on the movie lasted only a handful of episodes. Connie and Carla, a Vardalos penned *Some Like It Hot*-style gals-on-the-run flick, co-starring Toni Collette, did mediocre box office and got lukewarm reviews.

Vardalos all but disappeared. "I lost my mojo for a

while, yeah," she says. "I was very clear. I chose to step back and grieve a personal situation of being at the end of a 10-year fertility battle."

Vardalos talks quickly and pointedly; she's obviously made the speech to reporters before. The mes-

"I lost my mojo for a while. I was very clear. I chose to step back and grieve a personal situation."
Nia Vardalos

sage comes through clearly: she'll offer a bit of information, nothing more. "It was happening to me at 32. All during the success of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, it was this."

She politely refuses to say if she and Gomez tried in vitro fertilization or fertility drugs. Last year they did start a family, when the couple adopted a three-year-old daughter. Although Vardalos won't allow the child to be photographed or her name made public, "I do understand all this happened to me so that I could use my big mouth to talk about foster adoption," she quips.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

My Life in Ruins hits theatres tomorrow

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
6/4/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Better Living	Jimmy Kimmel	NBA Count	NBA Basketball: Finals - Magic at Lakers	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Greek Prohibition party	Wife Swap		Practice	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	22 Minutes	Laughs	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup Final Game 4 - Red Wings at Penguins			
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Urgences (SC)	Squelettes	Gars fille	Perdus '316' (HDTV) (SC)	Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Big Bang Th	Old Christine		
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Sûreté-salé	Dépenses xtr	Marché	Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)			
	6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Harper's Island "Gurgie"	Bones (HDTV) (PA)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.			
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	The Listener (HDTV) (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	So You Think You Can Dance			
	10	10	10	ELTV	Debate	Debate	EastLink Television	Podium TV	EastLink Television			
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV) (PA)	So You Think You Can Dance	Fox First	
news	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	The Listener (N)	The Listener	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	National	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	How to Beat the Bogey Man	Drug Companies Won't Tell		
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	How to Beat the Bogey Man	Drug Companies Won't Tell			
	68	68	68	TQS	Rire et délire	Chemin du golf	Grande fille	Avec Albert	A chacun sa vérité (2006) Stephanie Zimbalist, Dean Cain.		110 pour cent	
	23	23	23	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	GetConnected	Squeeze Play	Market Call	
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room- Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight			Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Big Break	Big Break	PGA Tour Golf	PGA Tour Golf Memorial Tournament - First Round.			
	52	52	52	RSE	Hockey Central	Sportsnet Con.	UFC: Access	MMA Conn	Billiards: U.S. Open Nine-Ball	Best Damn Sports Show	Sportsnet Con.	
	55	55	55	SCOR	(6) HSR		World Series of Poker: Europe	Score Update	Strikeforce	Poker Challenge	Score Tonight	
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)	Wrecked (N)	
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	NBA Pregame	NBA Countdown	NBA Basketball: Finals - Magic at Lakers		
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Two	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	Life Derek (2001)	
	26	26	26	TREE	The Wonder	Big & Small	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz (N)	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life "Pilots"	Falcon Beach
	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Rap Sheet"	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Warriors: TKO	By the Rapids	renegade press	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)	Crime 360 (N)
	70	70	70	APTN	News (N)							
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)							
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal	Storytellers	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star	The Saddest Music in the World (DVS)			
family	25	25	25	CMT	Totally	Shaye: This Is It	World Force	Just for Laughs	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Hope & Faith	
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
	153	153	153	COURT	Truth, Duty, Valour	The World's Wildest Police Videos	Daily Planet (N)	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Navy SEALs: Untold Stories	Police Videos	
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Factory City (N)	Gridlock	MythBusters	
	34	34	34	HSTV	Holmes on Homes	NCIS "Judgment Day"	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes in New Orleans	Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters
	46	46	46	HIST	Metropolis	NCIS "Judgment Day"	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Ancient Discoveries	Metropolis	NCIS	
	17	17	17	MM	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	One Tree Hill	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	Instant Star	Degrassi: TNG	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	Video on Trial	
	19	19	19	MMM	mmtop10.ca	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.	The Daily Fix	Just Buried (2007, Comedy-Drama)	Entourage	
	201	201	201	M1	(6:30) Awake * (2007)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Cuba"	Friends	Friends	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992)	Bounty Hunter
	48	48	48	OLN	The Amazing Race 3	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	Sunset in El Dorado **	The Great White Hope (1970, Drama)		
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Grands reportages **	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	
	206	206	206	PIX	The Gift	A Lapse of Memory (1992, Drama)			Anna's Storm (2007, Action)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	24 Hours en 60 minutes	The Outer Limits	Love-Death	Love-Death	Anna's Storm (2007, Action)		
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Angela J."	X-Weighted "Jen"	X-Weighted	
	40	40	40	SLICE	The Mom Show	Stargate SG-1 "Lifeboat"	The Listener (N) (DVS)	Star Trek: Voyager	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	TNA Wrestling (HDTV) (N)		
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn.	etalk	Deadliest Warrior (HDTV)	The Ellen DeGeneres Show	TMZ (N)	etalk		
	97	97	97	STAR	What Not to Wear	North of 60 "Ghosts"	Overhaul'n' Bling (HDTV)	Traders	American Chopper	Inside Hollywood (N)		
	21	21	21	TLC	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Destinations	Fourchette	Ciub social	Envoyé spécial	China's Leap of Faith	China's Leap
	28	28	28	V	Ekhaya -- A Family Chronicle	Mysterious Ways	Murder, She Wrote	Judging Amy	Divine Design	House	Passion	
	60	60	60	TV	Style by Jory	Style by Jory	How Clean	Friends	Smallville "Identity"	Supernatural (HDTV)	WGN News	
	22	22	22	W	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy				

critics' corner

The Listener

Toby Logan (Craig Olejnik, "The Timekeeper"), a young paramedic, goes about his rounds helping people in crisis while keeping a big secret: He has telepathic powers, which he uses discreetly in both his job and his personal life. In the first episode, Toby rescues a woman whose son has been kidnapped. 10 PM on NBC



The Saddest Music in the World

Isabella Rossellini stars in this offbeat 2003 musical comedy as a bear baroness in 1930s Winnipeg. She offers \$25,000 to whoever can produce the world's most melancholy melody, drawing contenders from all over the globe, including a washed-up Broadway producer (Mark McKinnery, "Kids in the Hall") and his brother (Ross McMillan), who's posing as a Serbian cellist. 10 PM on BRAVO

Crime 360

Two young brothers are found dead at an apartment complex in northeast Indianapolis, where high-caliber rifle casings litter the street. Detectives Tom Lehn and Jeff Wager discover that one of the men had been getting threats from an ex-girlfriend, but the twist-laden investigation points to several people who could have fired the fatal shots in the new episode "The Shooting Party." 11 PM on A&E

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Madonna has reportedly been shelling out big bucks to help 22-year-old Brazilian model Jesus Luz learn a new skill. According to the Sun, the singer has spent more than \$50,000 US on DJ equipment and lessons for her alleged boyfriend. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Jesus has a new hobby

Celebrity Buzz

Townies have no love for Kate

BAD FIRST IMPRESSIONS According to several fellow vacationers, Kate Gosselin didn't pay her eight kids much attention on their getaway to Bald Head Island, N.C., when the camera crew wasn't around — even though she pulled twin daughters Madelyn and Cara, 8, out of school for the trip, *us-magazine.com* reports.

Between texting on her phone and allegedly huddling with her bodyguard

Steve Neild (with whom husband Jon once feared she was having an affair), "she completely ignored her children the entire time," fellow vacationer Ann Michele Sweeney tells the newest issue of *Us Weekly*.

"When Kate sat on the



edge of the pool, she told one of (the twins), 'If you splash me, you're dead meat,'" Sweeney said. "She was not joking at all."

Another vacationer, Kim Kirsch, tells *Us* that "Everyone that's encountered her says she's been rude, mean and hateful."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate plays A-Rod's Band Aid?

GIRLFRIEND NOT GROUPIE Kate Hudson and Alex Rodriguez were spotted getting cozy last month at a restaurant in New York City, and now a source confirms they are dating, *people.com* reports.

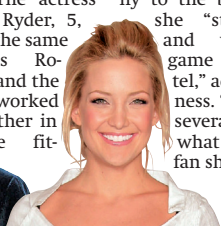
"It's somewhat serious," the source tells *People* in its upcoming issue. "He introduced her to a bunch of his friends."

Hudson followed Rodriguez on the road late last month, when the Yankees played the Texas Rangers. The actress and son Ryder, 5, stayed at the same hotel as Rodriguez, and the couple "worked out together in the fit-

ness centre," said an eyewitness.

For one of the games, she sent Ryder and his nanny to the ballpark while she "stayed behind and watched the game from the hotel," adds the eyewitness. "She remarked several times about what a big baseball fan she is."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



LeAnn stalking Eddie?

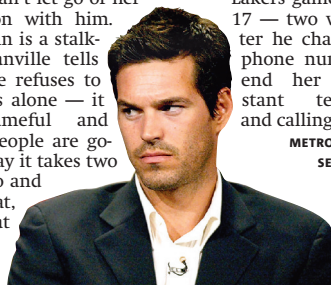
THREE'S A CROWD Eddie Cibrian cut ties with his Lifetime movie costar LeAnn Rimes two months ago — after their steamy affair was exposed — but his wife, Brandi Glanville, tells the new issue of *Us Weekly* that Rimes can't let go of her obsession with him.

"LeAnn is a stalker," Glanville tells *Us*. "She refuses to leave us alone — it is shameful and scary. People are going to say it takes two to tango and I get that, but at some point

LeAnn needs to stop asking him to dance."

Glanville, a model, alleges that Rimes (who was caught on video sucking Cibrian's finger during a date) intentionally tracked down her husband at a L.A. Lakers game on May 17 — two weeks after he changed his phone number to end her "constant texting and calling."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Melissa muses: Farrah's death or me on the cover?

SO INSENSITIVE Melissa Joan Hart, who graces this week's *People* magazine cover to show off her recent weight loss, allegedly wasn't so graceful when talking with friends backstage at a recent KTLA interview. Hart was reportedly heard saying she hoped Farrah Fawcett wouldn't lose her battle to cancer that week, as it would surely bump Hart off the cover, according to *Page Six*.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Vanessa drops wedding hint

NO SUBTLETY Memo to Nick Lachey: Vanessa Minnillo has marriage on the mind — and hand, *people.com* reports.

Pointing to a five-carat ring on her middle finger, Minnillo, 28, told Las Vegas columnist Robin Leach, "It will be 10 carats when it moves to the fourth finger!"

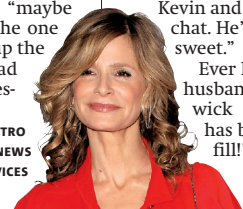
Leach says it was tongue-in-cheek, but in the brief interview, Minnillo mentions marriage three times. Noting that Lachey, 35, couldn't make it to Vegas with her be-

cause he of a friend's birthday, she pouted, "So once again it looks as if I'm always the bridesmaid but never the bride."

Not that there's a problem, she added. "There will always be rumblings and rumours that we've broken up, but in fact, it's very much still on — and it keeps on getting better."

So much so, she says, that "maybe this will be the one time I wind up the bride instead of the bridesmaid."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Chace has big shoes to fill: Kyra

SUPPORTIVE WIFE One hot topic in Kyra Sedgwick's family is the casting of her husband Kevin Bacon's signature role of Ren McCormack in the remake of 1984's *Footloose*, *people.com* reports.

"It's that Chace Crawford guy, right?" said Sedgwick. "We met him at the White House Correspondents Dinner."

Kevin and he had a chat. He's very sweet."

Ever loyal to her husband, Sedgwick adds, "He has big shoes to fill!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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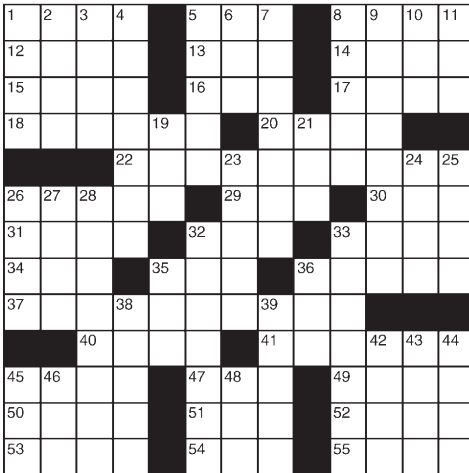
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Take Five



Crossword across

- 1 Read quickly
- 5 The whole shebang
- 8 Eastern potentate
- 12 Author Morrison
- 13 Halloween shout
- 14 Easter emblem
- 15 Winged
- 16 Early bird?
- 17 Gilligan's home
- 18 Bicycle-seat style
- 20 Restaurant chain acronym
- 22 "Dilbert" or "Garfield"
- 26 Face-to-face exams
- 29 Cistern
- 30 Altar affirmative
- 31 Jackknife, for one
- 32 Crony
- 33 Had more than a hunch
- 34 Female deer
- 35 Roscoe
- 36 Falafel holders
- 37 Meccas for shoppers
- 40 Break suddenly
- 41 Pearl's home
- 45 \$50, in Monopoly
- 47 Sportage maker
- 49 Black-and-white treat
- 50 Lotion additive
- 51 Charged bit
- 52 Sensed
- 53 Proper bloke
- 54 Greek consonants
- 55 Admit, with "up"

Crossword down

- 1 Impale
- 2 Caffeine-rich nut
- 3 — instant
- 4 Sainthood prerequisite
- 5 Perpendicular to the keel
- 6 Journal
- 7 Sane
- 8 "Cats" inspirer
- 9 Typo
- 10 Ailing
- 11 Pumpernickel alternative
- 19 Ph. bk. data
- 21 DDE predecessor
- 23 Ex of The Donald
- 24 Notion
- 25 Hogan's Heroes group
- 26 Probability
- 27 Laugh-a-minute
- 28 Distaste
- 32 Cinderella's coach, really
- 33 Casual dismissal
- 35 Coll. transcript stat
- 36 Thickness
- 38 Cove
- 39 Bank transactions
- 42 Genealogy chart
- 43 Morays, e.g.
- 44 Deteriorates
- 45 Satchel
- 46 Hearty brew
- 48 Debtor's letters

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



7	8	6	4	5	3	2	1	9
5	2	3	6	9	1	8	4	7
1	9	4	2	7	8	5	6	3
9	3	7	8	4	5	6	2	1
6	5	1	7	3	2	4	9	8
2	4	8	1	6	9	7	3	5
8	7	9	3	2	6	1	5	4
3	1	2	5	8	4	9	7	6
4	6	5	9	1	7	3	8	2

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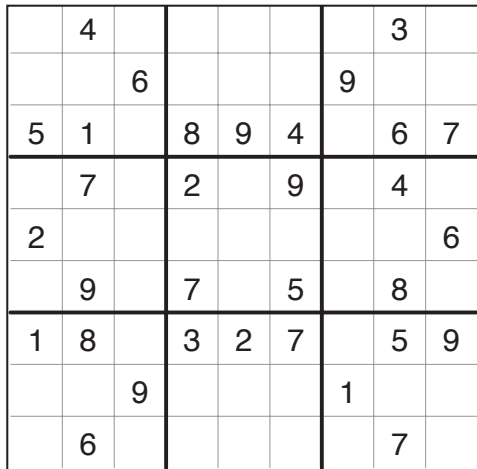
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
13-17 minScholar
17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ minKeep practising

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Metro Recipe of the Day



Tomato and Pecorino Clafoutis

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tsp (10 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) cherry tomatoes
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) snipped fresh chives
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) coarsely grated sharp pecorino cheese
- 6 extra large eggs
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) sour cream
- 1-1/4 cup (300 ml) 2% milk

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C). Lightly grease 4 shallow ovenproof dishes, each 5 to 6 in. (13 to 15 cm) in diameter. Divide cherry tomatoes among dishes, spreading them out. Sprinkle with chives and all but 1 tbsp (15 ml) of cheese.

2. Break eggs into bowl and whisk. Slowly whisk in flour until smooth. Add sour cream, then gradually whisk in milk for thin, smooth batter. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Pour batter over tomatoes, dividing evenly between dishes. Sprinkle remaining cheese and an extra grinding of pepper over. Bake until set, puffed and lightly golden, 30 to 35 minutes.
4. Remove clafoutis from oven and leave to cool for few minutes before serving, because tomatoes are very hot inside.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Today you will be even more forceful and focused on your work than usual, but try to remember not everyone is as driven as you are to succeed.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be careful what you say and do today; a profitable relationship could end if you go beyond what others consider to be acceptable behaviour.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21
It pays to follow your hunches and today you won't hesitate to take advantage of what, to your mind, looks like the opportunity of a lifetime.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22
If you are the kind of Scorpio who is impetuous then today you'll likely go way over the top. Chances are you'll get away with it.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't let others order you around, not even if they have something that you want and you think the best way to get it is to be nice to them.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21
Something shiny and new will catch your eye today and you'll want it no matter how much it might cost, but keep your cash in your pocket.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22
Your biggest failing at the moment seems to be your impatience, but today you have every reason to move things along as fast as you can.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
Bold decisions will come easily to you today, but you won't know for sure if they're good decisions until tomorrow, so make sure you can back out.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23
There's no point trying to persuade friends and colleagues that your way of looking at life is the best. Maybe it is, but that won't change them.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18
By now it should be obvious you've taken a wrong turn. What are you going to do about it? Ignoring it is not an option.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22
The important thing today is to make sure you spell out in plain and simple language what it is you expect of other people.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20
You may be having second thoughts about a plan of some kind but there is too much momentum behind it to stop it now.

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WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Lad's playthings (1)

2. Far-from-thin building block (1)

3. Arouse resentment in an Athenian (1)

4. Extra-extra-large-size okra stew (2)

5. War horses' lineages (1)

6. Giving heed to revving up an old watch (2)

7. Actress Michelle's secret-code messages (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

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6-4-09
SHEEDS BREESES & BINDING WINNING 7. PLETTHERS CIPHERS
SAVORS KIOSKS & THICK BRICK 3. PIQUE GREEK 4. JUMBO GUMBO
SHRIMPY

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